

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating asthma, comprising:
selecting an airway for treatment;
irradiating a length of the airway with a light source having a wavelength and intensity which causes a change in cells of the airway.
2. The method of claim 1, where the change in cells occurs in smooth muscle cells.
3. The method of claim 1, where the change in cells occurs in mucus gland cells.
4. The method of claim 1, where the wavelength of the light source is about 240 nm to about 280 nm.
5. The method of claim 1, where the wavelength of the light source is in the red visible range.
6. The method of claim 1, where the light source is selected from the group consisting of a infrared source, a visible source, and an ultraviolet source.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising moving the light source along the airway.
8. The method of claim 1, where irradiating the length of the airway with the light source prevents bronchospasms.
9. The method of claim 1, where the change in cells comprises preventing the cells from replicating.

10. A method of controlling mucus within a lung, comprising:
selecting an airway for treatment;
irradiating a length of the airway with a light source having a wavelength and intensity which causes a change in cells of the airway.
11. The method of claim 10, where the change in cells occurs in mucus gland cells.
12. The method of claim 10, where the wavelength of the light source is about 240 nm to about 280 nm.
13. The method of claim 10, where the wavelength of the light source is in the red visible range.
14. The method of claim 10, where the light source is selected from the group consisting of a infrared source, a visible source, and an ultraviolet source.
15. The method of claim 10, further comprising moving the light source along the airway.